

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 EUR-12 NEA-11 /169 W
-----027760 051700Z /41

R 050920Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BISSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1130
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BISSAU 0522

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, EWWT, MARR, MASS, PARM, PBOR, PLOS, PU
SUBJECT: ABILITY OF WEST AFRICAN COASTAL STATES TO PATROL
OFFSHORE FISHERIES: GUINEA-BISSAU

REF: STATE 090967

1. REPORT KEYED TO QUESTIONS RAISED REFTEL.

2. OFFSHORE FISHING MAKES A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO GUINEA-BISSAU'S STILL LIMITED MONETARY ECONOMY. THE VALUE OF FISH EXPORTS IN 1977 WAS 82,110 CONTOS (DOLS 2.4 MILLION APPROXIMATELY) OUT OF TOTAL EXPORTS OF 427,570 CONTOS (DOLS 12.5 MILLION APPROXIMATELY). MORE IMPORTANT, COMMERCIAL FISHING (ARTESANAL AND DEEP SEA FOR EXPORT) IS VIEWED BY GOGB AS ONE OF FEW MAJOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SECTORS. AS SUCH, POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS ARE MANY AND GOGB IS CURRENTLY ORGANIZING NEW GOVERNMENT FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, ARMED SURVEILLANCE
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SERVICE, AND PREPARING LONG-TERM FISHERIES POLICY. POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS ARE MANY, NOT ONLY WITH RESPECT TO FUTURE BUT ALSO AS RESULT OF AGREEMENTS SIGNED SINCE INDEPENDENCE, PARTICULARLY WITH SOVIET UNION AND ALGERIA. SOVIET AND ALGERIAN AGREEMENTS CALL FOR CREATION OF PARASTATAL FISHING COMPANIES, OWNED BY PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS WITH FOREIGN PARTNER PROVIDING PACKAGE OF

SHIPS, CREWS, TRAINING AND SOME FIXED FORMULA FOR EXPORTS AND PROFIT SHARING. ALGERIAN COMPANY IS ESSENTIALLY DEFUNCT, AS ALGERIAN SHIPS ROT IN HARBOR AND CREWS SPEND TIME DRINKING. SOVIET OPERATION HAS BEEN MAJOR IRRITANT BETWEEN GOGB AND SOVIET UNION AS GOGB HAS COME INCREASINGLY TO BELIEVE THAT SOVIETS ARE EXPLOITING SEA BEDS, FAILING TO PROVIDE TRAINING COMPONENT, AND ARRANGING COMPANY BOOKS SO THAT GUINEA-BISSAU RECEIVED LITTLE OR NO RECEIPTS. GOGB HAS ATTEMPTED TO RENEGOTIATE SOVIET AGREEMENT SEVERAL TIMES (LAST TIME EARLY THIS YEAR) BUT ARE STILL NOT SATISFIED (BISSAU 0116, 3/9/77).

3. POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF OFF-SHORE FISHING APPARENTLY SUBSTANTIAL. GUINEA-BISSAU HAS, WITH EXCEPTION OF GUINEA CONAKRY, THE LARGEST CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE FISHING WATERS BETWEEN CAPES BLANC AND GOOD HOPE; FRENCH AND RUSSIAN STUDIES HAVE VERIFIED RICHNESS OF THESE WATERS.

4. AT PRESENT, GOGB DOES NOT REGULATE OFFSHORE FISHING IN ANY MEANINGFUL MANNER. HOWEVER, NEW MINISTRY CALLED SECRETARIAT OF STATE FOR FISHING IS PREPARING GOVERNMENT FISHING POLICY AND ORGANIZING ARMED SURVEILLANCE SERVICE. TWO 60 FOOT FRENCH PATROL BOATS, AND ONE CESSNA TWIN-ENGINED AIRCRAFT (FROM CESSNA FRANCE) ARE ON ORDER WITH ASSISTANCE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.
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MENT FINANCING. FISHING MINISTRY HAS FIFTEEN MEN TRAINING WITH PORTUGUESE NAVY, AND ELEVEN WITH BRAZILIANS. ALSO, FISHING MINISTRY INTENDS TO SEND SEVERAL PEOPLE TO U.S. FOR PILOT TRAINING AND STUDY OF U.S. FISHING CONTROL METHODS (SEE STATE 307074). VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT DUE TO ARRIVE BISSAU JUNE THIS YEAR. AT ABOUT SAME TIME, GOGB WILL PROMULGATE ORGANIZATIONAL STATUTES OF NEW SURVEILLANCE SERVICE, AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL BE REQUESTED TO APPROVE LEGISLATION DEFINING TERRITORIAL WATERS, GOVERNMENT POWERS, MINISTERIAL COMPETENCE, AND RELATED MATTERS DEALING WITH OFFSHORE FISHING.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00
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R 050920Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY BISSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1131

INFO SECDEF EASHDC

CNO WASHDC

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BISSAU 0522

5. PRESENTLY, OFFSHORE FISHING CONDUCTED EITHER BY STATE OWNED MIXED COMPANIES (SOVIET-GUINEA-BISSAU, ALGERIA-GUINEA-BISSAU), OR BY FOREIGN FISHING FLEETS UNDER BILATERAL AGREEMENTS (SENEGAL, FRANCE, EEC). GUINEA-BISSAU AND PORTUGAL HAVE AGREED TO CONCLUDE NEW FISHING COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND PORTUGUESE BOATS AND PERSONNEL ARE PRESENTLY IN BISSAU CONDUCTED TEST FISHING OPERATIONS PRIOR TO PROPOSING TERMS FOR FORMAL AGREEMENT. TERMS OF VARIOUS AGREEMENTS NOT KNOWN TO US.

6. POACHING (BY AUTHORIZED AND UNAUTHORIZED VESSELS) IS PROBABLY A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR BUT DOES NOT REDUCE HOST COUNTRY'S CATCH AS LOCAL CAPABILITY DOES NOT EXIST. HOWEVER, GOGB IS CONVINCED THAT ITS WATERS ARE BEING HEAVILY FISHED WITH NO PROFIT TO ITSELF. AS MENTIONED ABOVE, GOGB HAS NO CONTROL OR SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITY AT THIS TIME AND SO IS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY PRINCIPAL POACHERS. GOGB HAS DEEP SUSPICION THAT SOVIETS (UNDER COVER OF CONFIDENTIAL

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JOINT FISHING COMPANY) AND ALMOST EVERYBODY ELSE FISHING OFF WEST AFRICAN COAST, IS POACHING.

7. GOGB INTENDS TO CLAIM TWELVE MILES TERRITORIAL WATERS AND 200 MILE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE. LEGISLATION TO THIS EFFECT CURRENTLY UNDER PREPARATION. LEGISLATION PARTIALLY BEING DELAYED BY OUTSTANDING SEA BOUNDARY DISPUTE WITH SENEGAL AND GUINEA CONAKRY. FORMER STEMS FROM FRENCH-PORTUGUESE BORDER AGREEMENT CONCLUDED IN LATE 1950'S WHICH RESULTED IN SENEGALESE CLAIM THAT SEA

BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SLANTS SOUTH-WEST FROM THE LAND BOUNDARY. LATTER STEMS FROM GUINEA CONAKRY EXTENSION OF RIVER BOUNDARY BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. RESULT OF SENEGALESE AND GUINEA CONAKRY CLAIMS RESULTS IS THAT THEIR SEA BORDERS MEET OFFSHORE SO AS TO CUT GUINEA-BISSAU OFF FROM OPEN SEA. BISSAU IS CONTESTING THESE CLAIMS AND EXPECTS THAT DISCUSSIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY WITH SENEGAL AND GUINEA CONAKRY WILL RESULT IN SATISFACTORY AGREEMENTS WITHIN NEXT FEW MONTHS.

8. SEIZURE OF SOVIET FISHING VESSEL WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES, GIVEN CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN SOVIET UNION AND GUINEA-BISSAU (DATING FROM INDEPENDENCE DAYS). HOWEVER, GOGB UNLIKELY TO REFRAIN FROM SUCH SEIZURE IF SOVIET SHIPS ACTUALLY DETECTED IN POACHING OR ILLEGAL FISHING. SUCH A SEIZURE WOULD PROBABLY BE HANDLED QUIETLY ON PART OF GOGB, BUT WOULD CERTAINLY STRAIN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS ALREADY DETERIORATED SINCE INDEPENDENCE. SEIZURE OF OTHER SHIPS UNLIKELY TO CAUSE ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEM, PARTICULARLY AS RELATIONS BETWEEN GUINEA-BISSAU AND HER TWO NEIGHBORS (SENEGAL AND CONAKRY) ARE EXCELLENT AND ALL THREE WOULD BE DESIROUS TO AVOID POLITICAL RE-CONFIDENTIAL

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PERCUSSIONS FROM ILLEGAL FISHING.

9. WE BELIEVE IT DOUBTFUL THAT GOGB WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ACTING IN CONCERT WITH ONE OR MORE OF ITS NEIGHBORS TO POLICE OFFSHORE AT THIS TIME. GOGB IS NEW GOVERNMENT AND LACKING IN EXPERIENCE. IT DOES NOT YET HAVE ANY ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITY OF ITS OWN AND IS DISTURBED BY THIS LACK. HOWEVER, IT MIGHT WELL BE INTERESTED IN SUCH COOPERATION IN FUTURE, PARTICULARLY IN CONTEXT OF ECOWAS (ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES). MARKS

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Message Attributes

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